

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application:

1 - 30. (Canceled)

31 (New). A snap ring, comprising:

a ring having an interior contour that extends about an opening, the interior contour having

a first segment that is defined by a first radius being rotated about a first origin within the opening,

a second segment that is defined by a second radius being rotated about a second origin within the opening, and

a third segment that is defined by the second radius being rotated about a third origin within the opening, the first origin being not coincident with the second origin or the third origin, and the second radius being greater than the first radius,

wherein the second segment and the third segment are separated from each other by and adjacent to a circumferential gap in the ring.

32. (New). The snap ring of claim 31, wherein the second origin is not coincident with the third origin.

33. (New). The snap ring of claim 31, wherein the first segment amounts to at least 50% of the interior contour.

34. (New). The snap ring of claim 31, wherein the first segment joins the second segment without a distinct radial step discontinuity.

35. (New). The snap ring of claim 31, wherein a radial reach of the second radius exceeds a radial reach of the first radius by a non-zero amount at least at one point on the interior contour.

36. (New). The snap ring of claim 35, further comprising at least one tooling hole, and wherein a ratio of the cubed width of the snap ring measured at said point divided by a distance between the contacting region and said tooling hole, is at least half of a minimum ratio of the cubed width of the snap ring measured at any other place on the snap ring divided by a distance from said place to said tooling hole.

37. (New). An actuator arm assembly for an information storage device, comprising:
an actuator; and
an actuator pivot bearing; and
a snap ring retaining the actuator pivot bearing relative to the actuator, the snap ring comprising an interior contour extending about an opening, the interior contour having
a first segment that is defined by a first radius being rotated about a first origin within the opening,
a second segment that is defined by a second radius being rotated about a second origin within the opening, and
a third segment that is defined by the second radius being rotated about a third origin within the opening, the first origin being not coincident with the second origin or the third origin, and the second radius being greater than the first radius,
wherein the second segment and the third segment are separated from each other by and adjacent to a circumferential gap in the ring.

38. (New). The snap ring of claim 37, wherein the second origin is not coincident with the third origin.

39. (New). The actuator arm assembly of claim 37, wherein the first segment amounts to at least 50% of the interior contour.

40. (New). The actuator arm assembly of claim 37, wherein the first segment joins the second segment without a distinct radial step discontinuity.

41. (New). The actuator arm assembly of claim 37, wherein a radial reach of the second radius exceeds a radial reach of the first radius by a non-zero amount at least at one point on the interior contour.

42. (New). The actuator arm assembly of claim 41, wherein the snap ring further comprises at least one tooling hole, and wherein a ratio of the cubed width of the snap ring measured at said point divided by a distance between the contacting region and said tooling hole, is at least half of a minimum ratio of the cubed width of the snap ring measured at any other place on the snap ring divided by a distance from said place to said tooling hole.